

Turning Points

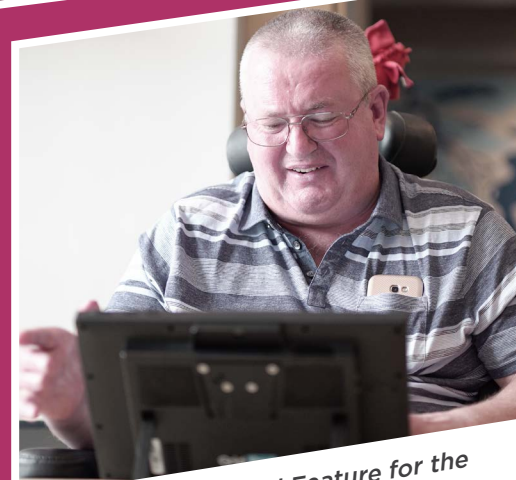
- Steeper Group celebrates its 100 year anniversary •
- Read all the latest news about the new and exclusive Freedom by Proteor range •



The new and exclusive Freedom by PROTEOR range



Steifeneder's Therapeutic shoes equipped with a new anti-slip sole



New Antimicrobial Feature for the Grid Pad 12 by Smartbox

CEO message

Paul Steeper

It is with great joy, that in 2021, we celebrate our 100th Anniversary - the company has come along way since 1921 and we are looking forward to bringing you the latest innovations in the Steeper range with new product launches and advancements to our portfolio. Furthermore, we also share with you the features of the specialist Talipes Clinic, and some recent product improvements within our lower limb portfolio. Not forgetting, the new Antimicrobial Feature for the Grid Pad 12 by Smartbox.

We hope you enjoy this issue, and please do share any feedback to marketingteam@steepergroup.com.

Best wishes and stay safe,



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We would love to hear from you!
Please send your feedback to:

marketingteam@steepergroup.com

Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Steeper Group



Since 23rd March 1921, the goal of the company has always been about helping others - creating turning points in their lives and providing prosthetic devices to help our users and patients get back to doing what they want to do. Our founder, Mr Hugh Steeper, was a pioneer, an innovator and a compassionate individual that wanted to help those returning from war.

This philosophy has remained with Steeper Group and to this day we share the same beliefs. Pairing expert clinical knowledge with ground-breaking technologies to provide the very best products and services that we can.

Over the years, our expertise has remained in Upper Limb Prosthetics and nothing could be more fitting for this year than to welcome our latest upper limb innovations to our portfolio. Over the last 100 years, the company has expanded into lower limb prosthetics, orthotics, clinical services and assistive technology both here in the UK and globally, collaborating with partners around the world.

Over the course of the year, we will be celebrating our centenary in a number of ways and we look forward to sharing with you some of our key milestones as we look back on a wonderful 100 years!

[Read the full case study on page 7](#)

Polymer: Behind the Cosmesis

Our Glove ranges are very popular with patients who require a cosmetic yet durable finish to their prostheses and with the coming warmer months and patient's post-lockdown lifestyles our Polymer technicians are manufacturing a wide range of Glove cosmeses daily to help meet this demand.



Our team of experts are responsible for delivering the high-quality level of cosmeses that our patients and prosthetists expect, however, the process of creating gloves is far from easy. It is a specialist process that can take a long time to perfect.

Steeper PVC gloves are the most simple of the gloves to manufacture, they are less delicate which means they are easier to mould and manipulate. However, with over 200 mould sizes and colours in both Standard and TrueFinish™ the logistics of manufacture is of utmost importance. In comparison, Steeper silicone gloves are much more complex to produce, requiring multiple layers of a unique liquid silicone blend to ensure the correct balance of elasticity and durability is achieved. This process may need to be repeated several times

depending on the size of the glove. Once the gloves are ready, they are hand finished. This is when the nails are painted and details such as fine lines, pigmentation and nail beds are added for a more authentic finish.

For users that require a more personalised finish, our High Definition Silicone cosmeses are sculpted in-house and in consultation to meet the patient's exacting standards. Furthermore, our technicians can deliver a near perfect match to an individual's skin shade, using our exclusive Spectromatch™ skin colour matching technology.



As a team, our expert technicians continuously work smarter in the way processes are carried out and ensuring they are working at full capacity efficiently, this not only helps to keep on top of orders but also helps to reduce waste and ensures the gloves are right the first time.

For further information on our full range of PVC and Silicone Gloves visit www.steepergroup.com or contact your Steeper Product Manager.

Specialist Talipes Clinic in Collaboration with Leeds Teaching Hospital

As with many clinics this year, Covid-19 has significantly impacted on the ability to see patients in person. However, in August 2020, the clinical team responsible for the talipes clinic was quick to resolve this issue and after speaking to Leeds Teaching Hospitals, the team were able to secure space for a new clinic. Thanks to this new space and specialist clinic room, 98 babies, that would have not been seen in person, were seen in the first couple of months. Now, with this specialist clinic room, the team have the capacity to see patients quickly, and for those whose treatment is progressing as expected video calls have been used to monitor their progress.

Last year the talipes clinic saw a variety of patients, from babies of just two weeks to toddlers and younger children. However, when initial restrictions and social distancing were put into place, the clinic had to dramatically reduce. For babies born with clubfoot the talipes clinic provides a very effective treatment solution. Treatment for clubfoot follows the Ponseti method and starts when the patient is just two weeks old with serial casting to correct the foot position, then a brace is worn for 23 hours a day for three months. This is followed by the patient wearing the brace at night until they are five. After this, the child shouldn't need any further treatment and should go on to lead a normal life. Whilst this treatment plan is very effective, it is reliant on engagement and adherence to the treatment plan, and families are seen often to ensure that signs of relapse are picked up at very early

stages. If problems are not spotted this can lead to complications with the need for surgery and the possibility of long-term pain in the feet.

At Leeds Teaching Hospitals, the clinic's case load is complex with quite a few cases where clubfoot is in connection with other conditions such as Spina Bifida or dislocated hips, this means that it is more important than normal to keep on top of the child's feet. The talipes clinic is made up of a select number of specialists including; Orthopaedic Surgeon, Plaster Technician, Physiotherapists, and nurse specialists alongside Senior Steeper Orthotist Kate Chauhan who all work collaboratively to ensure an effective 'one stop shop' for babies and families, reducing the number of visits required to hospital.

Further Information

These talipes clinics are run throughout the country, and all work to ensuring the best possible treatment for babies with clubfoot. Babies born with this condition have remained the same year-on-year. Half of all babies seen will have some genetic component, but the other half will not. Clubfoot may be picked up on an Ultrasound scan but will be confirmed at birth, it is in this instance that treatment will be discussed.

For more information on clubfoot or talipes clinics please visit www.stepsworldwide.org or if you would like further information please contact marketingteam@steepergroup.com where we can put you in touch with our specialist clinicians.

Introducing the exclusive Freedom by PROTEOR range



Steeper is partnering with PROTEOR as the exclusive UK distributor of the Freedom by PROTEOR range, continuing to supply the tried and tested Freedom products that create turning points for patients, as well as bringing the latest innovations in this range including the introduction of the Freedom Agilix foot which features in the latest MPK Package.

What does this mean?

The Freedom by PROTEOR range features the ever-popular Plié 3 microprocessor knee, hydraulic foot/ankle systems the Kinnex 2.0 and Kinterra as well as a choice of feet:

- Agilix
- DynAdapt
- Kinterra
- Highlander
- Pacifica LP
- Sierra

Foot shells and structural components continue to be available from Steeper.

What's included in the Plié MPK Package?

The MPK package includes a Freedom Plié 3 full limb build and the following:

Freedom Foot Options

Six compatible feet; Kinterra, Sierra, Highlander, Agilix, DyanAdapt and Pacifica LP.

Each foot is designed to enable ultra flexibility to help the user to retain an active lifestyle, by providing a smooth and efficient gait with stability and excellent energy return.

As well as the choice of Freedom feet, the package includes the following:

Adapters

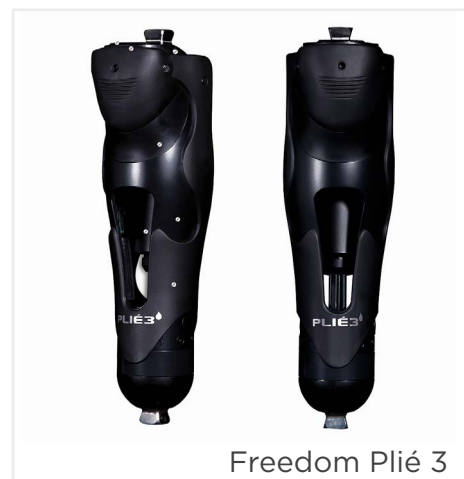
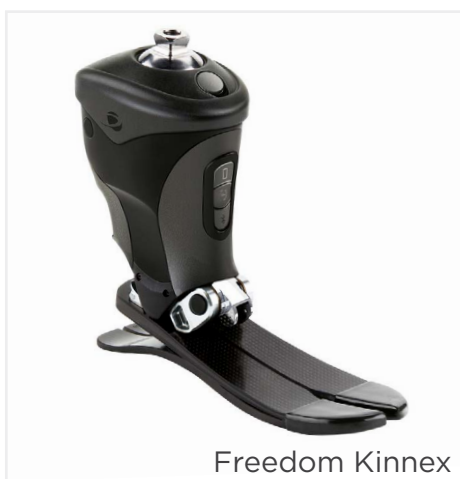
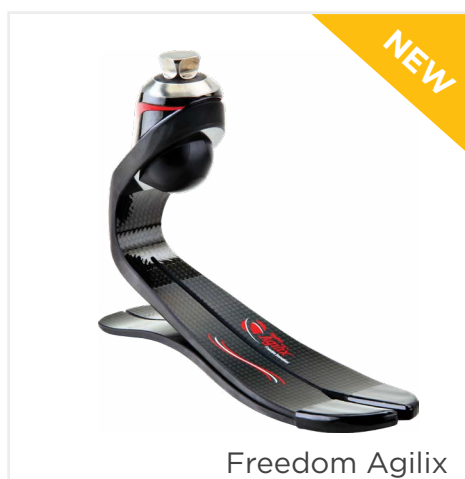
The choice of two sets of adapters, providing flexibility to the clinician by offering a variety of custom builds.

Designer Fairings

With a variety of colours and designs to choose from, the Plié 3 designer fairings bring the user's own style to the knee.

With further innovations and product releases to come within this range, we'll be sure to keep you updated!

For a full list of colours please refer to the Plié 3 brochure.



Streifeneder Therapeutic Shoes Product Update: Neptun B and Luna now equipped with a new anti-slip sole

The long-term bandage shoes Neptun B and Luna are now equipped with integrated sole spots that significantly improve both the middle stance phase and the lateral stability. Patients who are at high risk of falling are now optimally supported and can rely on their aids.



Designed to accommodate large bandages or wound dressings; the Streifeneder Therapeutic shoe range also protects the injured feet and offloads the forefoot, midfoot or hindfoot dependent on the model type. All Streifeneder Therapeutic shoes offer a variety of features and benefits that help improve healing, reduce infection and aid patient recovery.

To view the product details visit www.steepergroup.com or contact our Orthotic Customer Services Team.

SteeperUSA exhibits at Hanger 2021

Earlier this year, the SteeperUSA team attended the virtual Hanger live exhibition, showcasing the Espire Elbow range, Skinergy Plus, and endo-skeletal system. In addition, Steeper's UpSkill training platform.

Who is Hanger, Inc.?

Hanger, Inc. is the USA's premier provider of orthotic and prosthetic (O&P) services and products. Specialising in the provision of orthotic and prosthetic solutions, they deliver effective clinical systems, innovative technologies and outstanding customer service to patients each year at more than 800 patient care clinics in the USA.



"I'm so happy we attended Hanger Live this year. I was impressed by how well the show was managed and the traffic it brought to our booth. Everyone was extremely happy about our products and couldn't wait for our new products to launch. We could not have asked for a better turnout!"

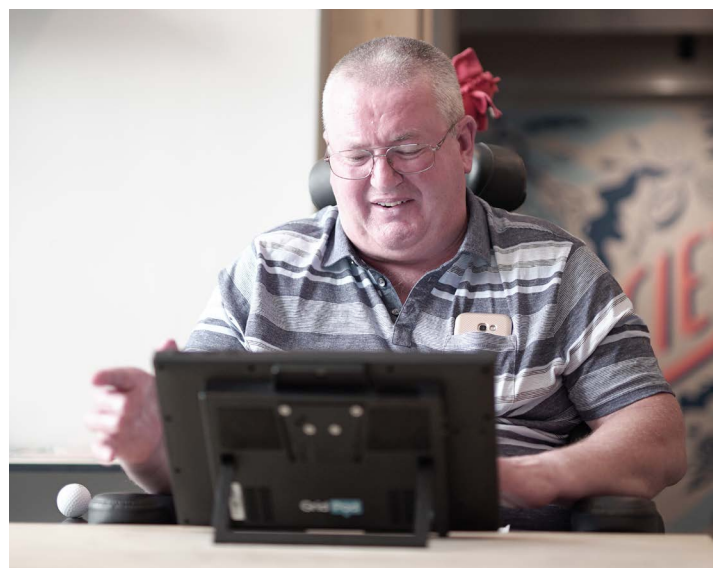
- National Sales Director, Bridget Salinas

New Antimicrobial Feature for the Grid Pad 12 by Smartbox

Grid Pad 12 now comes with an antimicrobial casing and screen to inhibit the growth of bacteria and the spread of viruses. The Sanitized® technology embedded within the device helps to keep it cleaner for longer. The Grid Pad 12 by Smartbox is designed for communication all day, every day, using any access method. The most flexible solution for people with complex access and communication needs, the Grid Pad 12 is a dedicated device and has been designed in collaboration with AAC users.

To view the product details visit www.steepergroup.com or contact our Assistive Technology Customer Services Team.

Note: Sanitized® technology has not yet been tested on COVID-19, however, it has been successfully tested against similar viruses including Influenza, Avian flu and SARS.



11:11

23rd March 1921

was the moment
Hugh Steeper
Limited was
founded.

Mr. Hugh Steeper learned the art of measuring and fitting upper limb prostheses from family friends who had sheltered from the Great War in England.

Continuing the much needed service and production Mr. Hugh Steeper founded the company Hugh Steeper Limited; which 100 years on is a world class manufacturer of enablement devices and provider healthcare services led by grandson of the company's founder, Paul Steeper.



“We’ve been pioneers in upper limb prosthetics for a century, and are proud of our heritage dating back to the great war.

I think my grandfather would be incredibly proud to see that the company he started 100 years ago continues to provide positive turning points for patients around the world!”

Paul Steeper, CEO.

Case
Study

 **steeper**
Creating life's turning points, together

Case Study

Mr. Hugh Steeper



The story

During 1910, Mr Hugh Steeper married into the Winterflood family and as such began to work for the company firm manufacturing geysers for water heating. During the war, Mrs Steeper invited mutual friends to reside in safety; the Vindevogal brothers who were in the wine trade, and Cauet, a limb maker. They came to England during the early part of World War 1 as refugees and were given permission to use the top floor of the Woodstock's premises for the production of artificial arms based on the Cauet principle. Mr Hugh Steeper, unfit for war service, became interested and following his normal daily occupation, **spent many hours an evening learning what he could about the limbs being made** in the Woodstock premises.

With demand high for artificial limbs, the Vindevogals and Cauets were making a small but important contribution to helping **provide prostheses for those returning from war**. After cessation of hostilities in 1918, our Belgian friends naturally wished to return to their homes and did so in 1919. By this time the Prothesia Company had moved to 49 Greek Street, Soho and when the Vindevogals and Mr Cauet left, the company went into liquidation. Mr Hugh Steeper had continued on a part-time basis and after 18 months, on 19th November 1920 he bought the company. Now as the new owner, he attended Roehampton Hospital measuring and fitting arms and helping create turning points in the lives of those returning from war.

On the 23rd March 1921, Hugh Steeper Limited became the operating company.

Continuing the solution

From then on **Steeper has been a name synonymous within the field of prosthetics**, with the first premises opening in 1923 in Roehampton, London and grew further following the introduction of the National Health Service in the UK in 1948.

In 1969 the first premises were opened in Leeds, where Steeper HQ continues to be located, and capacity to produce prosthetic and orthotic devices was significantly boosted.

Steeper has grown exponentially providing vital patient care and **expertly manufacturing devices in the fields of orthotics and assistive technology** having been awarded NHS contracts in these fields since the 1980s.

In 2015 the company rebranded to the original family name given to the firm almost a century before; and after being owned by several private equity firms to enable growth, in 2017 John Midgley and Paul Steeper, grandson of Mr. Hugh Steeper, became the owners of Steeper Group,

In 2020, the company acquired the prestigious Espire™ Elbow product range; giving five choices of prosthetic elbow including the award winning, powered Espire Pro with natural free swing and the Espire Classic Plus which can be used in combination with a wide range of terminal devices. The whole range is designed to be anatomically correct and offers patient choice with a variety of colours and design finishes.

The turning point

The company now prides itself in being not only an expert manufacturer, providing enablement devices worldwide and making a difference to thousands of patients every day but is also an expert service provider, drawing on the expertise previously gained by Mr. Hugh Steeper and innovating utilising the latest techniques and technologies to enable our clinicians to offer the best possible outcome, and our patient's excellence in the provision of care.

Paul Steeper, CEO said *"It's incredibly rewarding that the Steeper name continues to be a success across enablement devices, our teams know that everything we do impacts upon a patient's life and everyone at Steeper strives to create positive turning points in people's lives."*

Our 100th year will see global product launches, new supplier partnerships, improved ways of working and of course plenty of celebrations when its possible to do so, I'm excited about what the future holds for Steeper Group."

To find out more about Mr. Hugh Steeper visit www.steepergroup.com